

Why I Am Interested in Ashland College

A Personal Letter

For more than two months there has appeared regularly each week in these columns an editorial setting forth the need of a larger endowment for Ashland College. Some very pleasant incidents have become known showing that the effort has been appreciated by a large number of earnest friends of the College. Naturally one who advocates earnestly what he cordially believes, is gratified when there are visible results of his efforts. Recently there have been developments that give the editor ground for such gratification. Two applications have been received for blank endowment pledges, while one man offers to take a pledge of \$1000 if nine others will do the same. This is encouraging, but is only the beginning of an awakening that will end, it is earnestly hoped, in a munificent gift for Ashland College, and the permanent establishment of our educational work. The editor has thought it proper to set forth in a personal letter his reasons for the interest manifested in Ashland College:

1. I am interested in Ashland College because it is an educational institution, an institution, which from personal observation, I know has adopted methods of education in harmony with the laws of mental development, methods which will give, not a mere smattering knowledge of the practical things of life or store the memory with a bundle of useless facts and call that education, but rather such methods which long experience has taught conform to the laws of mind growth and which will lay broad and deep in the hearts of young people the foundation of an education that looks to and prepares for a life of service to humanity.

2. I am interested in Ashland College because it is an institution under strictly religious influences. I have no faith whatever in a godless education or in any system of education that leaves God out of its plans and methods. An eminent college president not long ago made the statement that morality may be taught aside from religion, a statement which is much easier to make than to prove, and one, which for want of adequate proof, I do not believe. Religion is such an important factor in the development of every human life that without it the nature of man can never be properly developed. The universal history of mankind attests the fact that "Atheism is the vain and wicked attempt to be less than a man." The real self, the *man*, the personal being, the rational and emotional nature, is intensely religious, and any attempt at the development of human character at variance with and in disregard of this fundamental law, must leave the spiritual in man forever dwarfed. Even atheist Comte himself tacitly confesses the "indispensable necessity for a religion of some kind to satisfy the emotional nature of man." Every day I become more and more convinced of the utter folly of disassociating man and religion. It is a disregard of the laws that govern our being; it ignores a great and fundamental fact of human experience and must end in an abnormal, an unhealthy development of human character. I am interested in Ashland College because it recognizes religion as an indispensable necessity in the development of man; its methods take into account the triune nature of our being, the physical, mental and religious. It goes on the

broad principle that the development of any one of these at the expense of the other is a violation of the laws of God and of nature. It does not believe that man is built like a war vessel or Chinese puzzle that can be taken apart, and that one part may be developed in utter disregard of the other. To my mind therefore Ashland College has adopted the true method of education and I am intensely interested in its success.

3. I am interested in Ashland College because it is under religious influence that is strictly *Christian*. It is in every sense a *Christian* institution. As it recognizes religion as an essential element in the development of man, so it recognizes Christianity as the only true religion. It is sufficiently liberal to encourage the study of comparative religion, but among all religions it recognizes Christianity only as a direct revelation from God, not *a* religion, but *the* religion. It holds up Christ as the ideal of human life, as the one who alone can save us from our sins and give us that peace and joy which come from a consciousness of sins forgiven, acceptance with God and adoption into his family. Ashland College endeavors to exalt Christ, to keep him, the Son of man and the Son of God before the young minds and hearts as the highest ideal of human life, whose name has wrought the most marvelous transformation and given to the world the purest and the noblest manhood that ever graced this sin cursed earth. For this reason I am interested in Ashland College; it is worthy of our support and has claims upon the richest gifts and powers in possession of the church of the Brethren.

4. I am interested in Ashland College because it is under the auspices of the Brethren church, owned and controlled by the church. It is an institution of the church of my own choice, whose institutions I love and whose doctrines are dear to me. Loyalty to my church demands that I should support our only educational institution. No one can be loyal to the church of which he is a member and not support those institutions without which the church could not long exist as an organization. Loyalty to one's church is not measured by being what is known as a "stickler" for the peculiar tenets or doctrines of his church, but by the sacrifice he is willing to make to promulgate those principles and doctrines of the gospel which he holds as essential to salvation. If these doctrines are essential the responsibility of making them known to others rests upon you to the extent of your ability.

5. I am interested in Ashland College because among all the human agencies there is none other so vitally important, so absolutely essential to the growth and power of the church as that of a Christian school of education for the training of young men and women for the responsibilities of Christian service and Christian citizenship. In a large way our very life as a church depends upon the permanent establishment of our educational work. With five or six colleges our German Baptist Brethren have made more progress in the last twenty or twenty-five years than in 100 years before. Active missionary enterprises in that church date back to the beginning of their educational enterprises and what is true of that church is true of all others including our own. Shall we be wise and learn the lesson?

For these reasons and for others which I have not space to enumerate I am interested in Ashland College.